

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-10, 12, 13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 17-20 have been added. Claims 14 and 16-20 are pending and under consideration.

EXAMINER INTERVIEWS

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy shown to their representatives during the in-person interview held at the USPTO on April 15, 2008 and during the telephone interview held on May 8, 2008.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-10 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto et al. (US 2002/0048033) (hereinafter "Tsukamoto").

Claims 1-10, 12 and 13

Claims 1-10, 12 and 13 have been cancelled.

Claims 14-16

Amended claim 14 recites: "...executing a function of the image processing apparatus corresponding to the execution file stored in the portable storage unit, if the portable storage unit stores the execution file, wherein the execution file includes a plug-in program." Support for this amendment may be found in at least claim 15.

In claim 14, the file stored in the portable storage unit is an execution file which is connected to the main program. By contrast, in Tsukamoto, the program stored in the storage enabled card is a program, for example a device driver for the modem card, to replace the function of the modem card set to the card slot. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in claim 14 stores a program having a function distinct from that of Tsukamoto.

Further, in the present invention, one slot is used to mount the portable storage unit, whereas in Tsukamoto, only the modem card, or both the modem card and the storage enabled card, are installed. Accordingly, the present invention differs from Tsukamoto in the field of the invention.

Claim 16 depends on claim 14 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claim 16 has also been amended to improve the form of the claim. Specifically, the semi-colon after the word "comprising" was replaced with a colon.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 17-20 have been added to present alternate recitations of the present invention. Support for these new claims may be found in at least paragraph [0028] – [0032] of the specification of the present application.

New dependent claim 17 is dependent on claim 14 and is believed to be allowable for the foregoing reason.

New independent claim 18 recites that a control unit executing a function of the image processing apparatus corresponding to the execution file stored in the portable storage unit, if the detection unit detects the execution file in the portable storage unit. In contrast to claim 18, Tsukamoto does not disclose an exemplary embodiment in which only the storage enabled card is inserted. Accordingly, it is unreasonable to compare the technical features of Tsukamoto with the present invention as recited in claim 18.

New dependent claims 19 and 20 are dependent on claim 18 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the foregoing reason.

No new matter has been added. Entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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